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ANNUAL REPORT

On the Health of

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT

For the Year 1966

Report presented by
The Medical Officer of Health and The Senior Health Inspector
Hertford Rural District Council

HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report on the Health of the District for the Year 1966

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HERTFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1966

P R E F A C E

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report on the health of your District for 1966.

It has been a very satisfactory year in which the health of the community has remained at a high level. The vital statistics compare favourably with previous years and with those for England and Wales. It is good to report that the infant mortality rate was NIL compared with 43.71 per 1000 live births for 1965. One stillbirth occurred.

This was a year very free from notifiable disease and although one case of cross-infection by Salmonella Typhi-murium from calves and two of meningococcal disease presented, neither gave rise to an epidemic. Six new cases of tuberculosis were notified, bringing up to 44 the number of cases on the register.

Examination of the breakdown analysis of cause of death reveals that deaths from cancer of the lung have doubled. The association between this disease and cigarette smoking is now so well-known as to scarcely need stressing. However, the need for further propaganda against cigarette smoking, especially amongst young people, is evident.

I must report a case of Brucella Abortus occurring in a dairy herd in the District in September. With the assistance of the County Health Inspector, this was investigated and no hazard to public health arose.

I succeeded Dr. John Crawley as Medical Officer of Health on 1st May, and this report, therefore, covers the period from that date to the end of the year.

I would like to place on record the ready assistance and helpful guidance given to me by the Senior Health Inspector, Mr. H. E. Gilby, and Deputy Health Inspector, Mr. J. Martindale, during the period of this report. I am most grateful to them.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. de Bec Turtle,

Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT - STAFF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Surg. Capt. P. de Bec Turtle, V.R.D., M.A., B.M.B.Ch.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

DEPUTY (PART-TIME) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. Gordon Frizelle.

HEALTH INSPECTORS

Senior Health Inspector (and Surveyor) H. E. GILBY

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board.
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Deputy Health Inspector J. MARTINDALE

Certificate of the R.S.I. and S.I.E.J. Board
Certificate for Inspectors of Meat and Other Foods.

Health Department

Council Offices,
Wallfields,
Pegs Lane,
Hertford.

Tel: Hertford 3007/8

Clerical duties in the Health Department were carried out by Mrs. I. M. Ball and Mrs. B. Boulton.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Public Health matters were dealt with by the General Purposes Committee the Chairman of which for the Session 1966/67 was Councillor, Mr. F. S. Beetham.

Sub-standard housing was dealt with by the Housing Committee, the Chirman of which for the Session 1966/67 was Councillor, Mr. T. Abel Smith.

SECTION A

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1966

(Table 1)

(Figures for 1965 are shown in brackets)

POPULATION

Estimated Mid-Year Population of Hertford Rural District

Registrar General's Estimate	11,150	(10,950)
Total increase	+200	

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres 31,746

Number of Inhabited Houses according to Rate Books:-

3,502

Number of houses per acre	0.11
Number of persons per acre	0.35
Number of persons per house	3.18

Rateable value of District £404,710

Sum represented by a Penny Rate £1,670

VITAL STATISTICS AND GENERAL STATISTICS 1966

(Table 2)

(Figures for 1965 are shown in brackets)

BIRTHS

Standardised Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population		18.43	(17.79)
Area Comparability Factor for Births		1.06	(1.06)
Number of Live Births	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
TOTAL:	102	92	194
Legitimate	96	85	181
Illegitimate	6	7	13
Number of Still Births	-	1	1

DEATHS

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population		8.96	(9.68)
Area Comparability Factor for Deaths		1.22	(1.18)
Number of Deaths	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
All Ages: Total	51	31	82
Deaths of Infants under 1 year	-	-	-
Number under 4 weeks of age	-	-	-
Number under 1 week of age	-	-	-
Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 related Live Births:		Nil	(43.71)

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified during 1966:-

Disease	Total All Ages	Age Group in years					
		Under 1	1-	5-	15-	25-	Over 60
Scarlet Fever	4	-	1	3	-	-	-
Measles	13	-	8	5	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Salmonella typhi murium	1	-	1	-	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	2	-	2	-	-	-	-

Incidence of Diseases during the different months

Diseases	Month and Number of Cases
Scarlet Fever	Jan. (1) Sept. (1) Nov. (1) Dec. (1)
Measles	April (4) June (2) Aug. (1) Sept. (2) Nov. (1) Dec. (3)
Whooping Cough	July (1)
Salmonella typhi murium	Sept. (1)
Meningococcal Infection	May (2)

Incidence of Diseases amongst the different Parishes, during 1966:

Parish	
Aston	Measles (3) Salmonella typhi murium (1)
Bayford	Measles (1)
Bengeo Rural	Measles (3) Meningococcal Infection (2)
Little Amwell	Measles (5)
Sacombe	Measles (1) Scarlet Fever (1)
Tewin	Scarlet Fever (1)
Watton-at-Stone	Scarlet Fever (2) Whooping Cough (1)
All other Parishes	Nil

T U B E R C U L O S I S

The following is a summary of Tuberculosis Notifications etc., during 1966:-

After taking into account deaths, new cases etc., the year commenced with 38 cases on the Register:-

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Males	19	2
Females	11	6
Inward Transfers from other areas:	1	-
Outward Transfers to other areas:	1	-
New cases notified:	6	-
The year ended with 44 cases on the register, viz:		
Males	23	2
Females	13	6

BREAKDOWN ANALYSIS OF CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 wks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS 1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 and over
Meningococcal Infections	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	M	12	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	4	4
	F	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous system	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Coronary Disease, Angina	M	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	2	3
	F	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3
Other Heart Disease	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Other circulatory Disease	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2

continued . . .

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all Ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 wks and under 1 year	AGE IN YEARS 1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75and over
Influenza	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Bronchitis	M	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duddenum	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Congenital malformations	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	1
	F	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3
Motor vehicle accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
All other accidents	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL ALL CAUSES:	M	51	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	7	7	14	19
	F	31	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	4	4	19

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND WELFARE SERVICES FOR HERTFORD RURAL

The County Council is responsible for the following health and welfare services in respect of which full details may be obtained from the Health and Welfare Department, County Hall, Hertford (Tel: 4242).

A. HEALTH SERVICES

Clinics which serve Hertford Rural District

Health Centre, Bull Plain, Hertford

Ante Natal & Post Natal	- Thursday 9 a.m. - 12 noon.
Infant Welfare	- Wednesday 1.45 - 4.0 p.m.
Immunisation Clinic	- 2nd Tuesday in each month.
General Clinic for School Children	- 4th Tuesday in each month.
Dental and Orthodontic	- By appointment, (Tel. Hertford 3259)
Speech Therapy	- By appointment, (Tel. Hertford 3597)
Relaxation Classes - Mothercraft	- Monday 2.0 p.m. - 5.15 p.m. Application to Mrs. Major, 100 Ware Road, Hertford.

Transport to Infant Welfare Clinic is available from Birch Green and Cole Green on the 1st Wednesday in each month and from Bayford, Brickendon and Little Berkhamsted on the 3rd Wednesday in each month. For arrangement, telephone the Health Visitors - Hertford 3597

Sele Farm Clinic, Hollybush School, Hertford

Infant Welfare - Fridays, 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

Transport is available from Waterford and Bramfield areas. Telephone Miss Ketola, Hertford 3711.

Village School, Hertford Heath

Infant Welfare - 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 2.30 - 4.0 p.m.

Village Hall, Datchworth

Infant Welfare - 1st Tuesday, 2.0 - 4.0 p.m.

New Pavilion, Watton-at-Stone

Infant Welfare - 4th Wednesday, 2.30 - 4.0 p.m.

Parochial Hall, Benington

Infant Welfare	- 3rd Wednesday, 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Village Hall, Tewin

Infant Welfare	- 2nd and 4th Monday, 2.30 - 4.0 p.m.

Church Hall, Walkern

Infant Welfare	- 1st Thursday, 2.30 - 4.0 p.m.

A Family Planning Clinic is held at the Health Centre, Bowling Road, Ware on Monday and Thursday evenings.

Immunisation and Vaccination

All parents are advised to take advantage of this service which can be obtained from their family doctors or at any of the Infant Welfare centres mentioned.

The following table gives the latest recommendations of the County Medical Officer:-

3 - 6 months	COMBINED diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
	COMBINED Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
	COMBINED Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
1 - 2 years	SMALLPOX
18 - 21 months	COMBINED Diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
School Entry	POLIOMYELITIS (ORAL)
School Entry	COMBINED Diphtheria, tetanus.
8 - 12 years	SMALLPOX revaccination
13 years plus	TUBERCULOSIS (B.C.G.)

Care and After-Care

Equipment can be issued on loan to patients being nursed at home. A Medical Loan Department has been established at the Health Centre, Bull Plain. Helpers are present for distribution of equipment on Mondays

and Fridays at 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. and Wednesdays at 2.30 - 3.30 p.m.

A Cytology Clinic is held at the Clinic, Bull Plain, Hertford on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays for all women. Telephone Monday and Wednesday mornings 9 - 12 Mrs. Scott, Hertford 3597.

B. SOCIAL WELFARE SERVICES

(i) Homes for Old People

Application for admission to the County Council's Homes for old people needing care and attention should be addressed to the Divisional Welfare Officer, 1 Queens Road, Hertford (Tel: 3145).

(ii) Home Help

Application for this service should be made to the Home Help Organiser, Health Centre, Bull Plain, Hertford (Tel: 3232). Office hours: 9.0 a.m. to 1.0 p.m. and 2.0 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. Charges vary according to financial circumstances; applicants being assessed in accordance with the County Council's assessment scale.

(iii) Chiropody Service

This service is confined to the elderly (males aged sixty-five years and over; females aged sixty years and over), the physically handicapped (those substantially and permanently handicapped) and the expectant mother. Such persons must also either be in receipt of supplementary benefit from the Ministry of Social Security, or be in similar financial circumstances. Application forms are obtainable from chiropodists, general practitioners, members of the County nursing staff and social work staff, and other persons connected with the care of the elderly and the physically handicapped. Applications should be submitted to the County Medical Officer. Eligible persons receive treatment without charge.

(iv) Old People's Welfare

There are several social clubs for the elderly in the district - The Hertford Evergreen Club is held in Bircheley Street on Monday and Friday afternoons from 3 - 6 p.m.

The Secretary of the Hertfordshire Old People's Welfare Council, The Old Forge, Sawbridgeworth (Tel: 3278) will be pleased to furnish details of other clubs in the rural district.

(v) Meals-on-Wheels

At present hot meals are served in the Benington and Watton areas, there are organizers also at Aston and Cole Green, which can operate when

(v) Meals-on-Wheels continued

the need arises. Enquiries should be made to Mrs. Sewell, W.R.V.S., County Meals Organiser, 31 Maidenhead Street, Hertford, (Tel: 3670)

(vi) Welfare Services for the general classes of the Handicapped and the deaf

Advise on the services available for the deaf and those persons who are permanently and substantially handicapped is obtainable from the Divisional Welfare Officer, 1 Queens Road, Hertford.

(vii) Welfare Services for the Blind and Partially Sighted

Information on this service may be had from the Blind Welfare Officer, 2 The Wash, Hertford. (Tel: 3201).

(viii) Mental Health

Arrangements for mental treatment on the recommendation of a medical practitioner are made by a mental welfare officer, Social Work Unit, 1 Queens Road, Hertford, (Tel: 3145).

Help for Mentally Subnormal persons can be obtained by application to the County Medical Officer.

The Training Centres are run daily - Monday to Friday - The adult centres are at Cranbourne Hall, Cecil Road, Hertford for females and at Christchurch Hall, Balfour Street, Hertford for males, and close only for a week at Christmas and Whitsun and two weeks in midsummer. The Junior Centre is at St. Margaretsbury, Stanstead Abbots and is open during the ordinary school terms. A Club for the mentally subnormal is held at Morgans Walk School, Hertford - information can be obtained from Mr. R. Larman, Hon. Secretary Hertford Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, 25 Woodhall Close, Hertford.

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

REPORT OF THE SENIOR HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1966

INTRODUCTION:

The improvement of the environmental health conditions for the area during the past year has again been satisfactory, due to the policies adopted by the Council and also to the keenness of those whose duty it is to interpret those policies.

Main drainage is still in the forefront of the improvements, Walkern Parish having been re-sewered, Hertingfordbury provided with main sewers to a larger portion of the Parish, and the contract for the Parish of Bayford having been commenced.

All this major sewerage work shows a gratifying increase in the number of cesspools abolished, pail closets converted, and other types of substandard drainage improved.

The Council's original programme for the demolition of unfit houses has now been completed, whilst the improvement of existing living accommodation by approving applications for both Standard and Discretionary Improvement Grants still makes steady progress.

Details of all this work will be found under their respective headings and the Table showing the Development of Undertakings and Services in the area.

WATER SUPPLIES:

Main water supply for the whole area is under the control of the Lee Valley Water Company, except for the Parish of Little Amwell which is supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board. There are still a few private wells in existence, these serve individual properties in the outlying districts.

During the year the Lee Valley Water Company obtained and examined 210 and 19 chemical samples of water, and all were found to be satisfactory. In addition to these samples your own Public Health Department obtained and submitted 12 samples from the public supply for bacteriological examination, these also were found to be satisfactory.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

During the year the constructional work of re-sewering the Parish of Walkern was practically completed and the old irrigation beds dispensed with.

The sewage is nowpumped into the Stevenage Trunk Sewer, to be eventually treated at the Rye Meads Purification Works.

Contracts were signed for the sewering of a larger part of the Parish of Bayford, work has been commenced and it is anticipated that the scheme will become operational in August, 1967. The existing small disposal works, which serves 30 properties, will be abandoned and constructed on the site will be a new pumping station discharging the sewage into the Hertingfordbury sewer.

Satisfactory progress has been maintained in persuading property owners to make use of the new drainage facilities, and a total of 270 visits were made in supervising the connection of the various premises to the sewer.

The following table indicates the percentage of houses in each Parish which now enjoy these facilities (as at 31st December, 1966):-

Parish	No. of Houses	Houses connected in current year	Total houses connected	Percentage
Aston	216	26	156	72.2%
Bayford	139	-	30	21.5%
Bengeo Rural	155	3	125	80.6%
Benington	251	10	222	88.4%
Bramfield	90	1	75	83.3%
Brickendon	154	2	59	38.3%
Datchworth	462	31	411	88.9%
Hertingfordbury	243	32	196	80.6%
Little Amwell	403	20	390	96.7%
Little Berkhamsted	179	-	74	41.3%
Sacombe	77	-	-	-
Stapleford	205	6	185	90.2%
Tewin	411	6	324	78.8%
Walkern	294	27	211	71.7%
Watton-at-Stone	414	45	378	91.3%

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS:

Parishes whose sewage is not discharged into one of the two trunk sewers received routine visits during the year; 23 samples of the final effluent from the various works were tested with a field testing outfit, and all were found to comply with the Royal Commission Standard, except the sample from Brickendon Works.

A detailed examination of the works was carried out and in an effort to improve the effluent, it was decided to experiment with some slight alterations by re-newing the regrading part of percolating filter, cleansing and re-newing the sand filters, etc., and lowering the level of the effluent in the humas tank.

The beneficial effects of the alterations have been noticeable in both the samples examined by your own Health Department and those taken by the Lee Conservancy Board, all show that they are well within the required standard.

REFUSE COLLECTION

Owing to the growth of the number of houses in the district, it was found that there was some difficulty, especially in the Southern parishes in maintaining the 10 day service of refuse collection. The Council decided at the latter end of the year to investigate the possibility of improving this service by a weekly collection, and after examining in detail the relative increased cost (which was within the product of a 1d rate) it was resolved to operate a weekly collection as from July, 1967.

BULKY DOMESTIC REFUSE COLLECTION

This service for the householders of the district continues to operate smoothly, and the number of applications during the year amounted to 196, this being an increase of 56 over the previous year. No charge is made to the householder.

Provided that staff is available, the Council is prepared to remove bulky refuse which is not of a domestic nature, for which a suitable charge is instituted and the revenue received from applications of this nature during the year amounted to £34. 15. 0.

The problem of indiscriminate dumping of rubbish on the roadside verges and in the woods does not appear to be abating, in two cases evidence of those responsible was found and proceedings were taken under either the Litter Act or Hertfordshire County Council Act in the Magistrates Court. Both prosecutions were successful and total penalties of £8 in fines and £7 in costs was made against the offenders.

DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERTAKINGS AND SERVICES:

The following Table (on page 16) indicates the growth of the District and the increase in the demand for the Council's services.

SERVICE	30th September 1966		31st March 1952	
	No.	% Datum	No.	Datum
Estimates Population	11,633	135.26	8,600	100
No. of houses in District	3,693	144.14	2,562	100
Sewerage				
Houses Connected	2,767	282.34	980	100
Staff Engaged	3.64	87.08	4.18	100
Cesspool Emptying				
Houses with cesspools	775	67.09	1,155	100
Loads of Sewage Removed	907	55.03	1,648	100
Staff Engaged	1.99	82.91	2.4	100
Refuse Collection				
Houses served	3,688	144.51	2,552	100
Staff Engaged	5.7	174.31	3.27	100

SUMMARY OF VISITS BY THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1966

Factoris Act	5
Food and Drugs Act	
Food Premises	32
Housing Acts	
Inspections and Interviews	44
Improvement Grants including revisits	183
Public Health Acts, etc.	
Caravans and Camping Grounds	2
Complaints	64
Infectious Disease	4
Refuse Collection	120
Sewerage	362
Water Supplies	20
Petrol Storage	-
Closet Conversion	9
Rodent Control	4
Miscellaneous Visits	120

Food and Drugs Act

Details of registration and licences in force and further particulars concerning other food premises are as follows:-

Ice Cream Premises

There are 31 premises in the district registered for the sale of ice cream and 1 registered for storage. There are no manufacturers of ice cream in the area.

Preserved Food

(a)	Sausage Manufacture	(2)
(b)	Other preserved Food Manufacturers	(1)

Food Premises by type of business

Bakery with shop	3
Butcher	4
Cafe	2
Greengrocery	1
Grocery and General	35
Canteen including school canteens	17
Public Houses	35
Mineral Water Factory	1
Cold Store Salmon Processing	1

The inspection of food premises under the Food Hygiene Regulations continued to be made during the year, as time permitted and no special difficulties were encountered.

In two instances it was necessary to request compliance with the Regulations by informal letters, this work consisted of redecorations to a bakehouse and a salmon processing factory.

Regular visits were made to the Salmon processing premises, who now export this product and 17 export certificates were issued.

In the early part of the year the poultry slaughterhouse at Watton-at-Stone closed down, and a final visit was made on the 25th February. In these two months, 8 certificates were issued for unmarketable or unfit chickens representing 643 birds. The total weight of poultry surrendered amounted to 16 cwt. 3 qrs. 12 lbs.

HOUSING ACTS

Progress has again been maintained in the repair, improvements of sub-standard dwellings and the demolition of unfit houses.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Though legislation exists permitting a local authority to declare areas to be Improvement Areas under the Housing Act 1964, the Council's policy of encouraging owners to improve their property voluntary and with the aid of both types of Improvement Grant continues to be successful. Though there was a reduction in the number of applications received for Discretionary Grants over the previous year, an increase is noticeable in the number of Standard Grants approved.

Discretionary Grants

Only four applications for Discretionary Grants were received during 1966. The estimated cost of all the work relating to these applications amounted to £3,608.

Five Discretionary Grants were completed during the year and £1,362 was paid to the applicants.

Standard Grants

Twenty Standard Grants were submitted to the Council for approval by fifteen owners and the amount of Grant money approved was £4,987. In twelve of the applications it was necessary, however, to construct bathrooms or instal septic tank drainage, and the increased Grant was authorised accordingly.

Eighteen Standard Grants were completed during the year and the total Grant money paid to the applicants amounted to £2,849.

Sub-Standard Properties

The Council's original programme for the demolition of unfit dwellings is now completed, the following table indicates progress in this direction:-

Demolition Orders made	nil
Demolition Orders complied with	2
Houses demolished by agreement or other causes ..	1
Undertakings accepted for repair (Section 16)	1

The total number of visits made in connection with Demolition Orders, repairs, Improvement Grants, etc. was 227.

Housing Progress

The following table shows the progress made during the year 1966 for the provision of new housing (as specified in the Housing Consolidiation Regulations):-

	During 1966	Since 1945
BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE		
New dwellings erected	77	838
Conversions or adaptions in terms of family units	1	41
BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES	44	788
BY OTHER AUTHORITIES		
(County Council, Police, Forestry Commission, etc.)	Nil	12
TOTAL PROPERTIES CONTROLLED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY		
Council Houses	1,083	
Temporary Prefabricated Bungalows	Nil	

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT 1963

Administration of the Act - Year 1966

This being the second full year of the administration of the Act, an improvement is noticeable over the previous year's report, both in the number of inspections made and premises registered.

The year commenced with 22 premises on the Register and a further 6 premises were registered during the year.

Owing to the responsible officer being engaged on other environmental health duties, the amount of time which he was able to allocate to this important work was not as much as anticipated. At the commencement of the year, however, of the 28 registered premises, 11 were subject to the initial general inspection, the total number of persons employed consisting of 15 males and 18 females.

The results of the various inspections are as follows:-

Cleanliness (Section 4)

The standard of cleanliness in all premises visted was found to be satisfactory, except in one instance, this being a newly occupied general shop. A request to remedy various infringements of the Acts was issued which included redecorations to the stock room.

Overcrowding (Section 5)

No case of overcrowding was found during the year.

Temperature (Section 7)

Heating facilities were found to be adequate in all premises inspected and it was noticeable in two of the butchers shops visited, means of heating was supplied in rooms other than the shop or store room.

During the year six informal letters were issued to provide thermometers in various premises.

Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9)

In all but two of the premises inspected, suitable and sufficient sanitary accommodation was provided for the employees.

The two exceptions were a general store, consisting of a two roomed lock-up type of premises employing 1 female and a newly constructed wooden office employing 3 males and 1 female.

Sanitary Conveniences (Section 9) continued

As no application for exemption would have been entertained, notices to provide sanitary accommodation were issued.

There were no applications for exemptions received during the year.

Ventilation (Section 7)

Ventilation was found to be satisfactory in all but one of the premises. The exception was a stock room to a general stores and an informal letter was issued accordingly.

Two premises whose ventilation was previously inadequate have now been brought up to standard.

Lighting (Section 8)

Of the premises inspected the standard of lighting was found to be satisfactory, except in one instance. The premises in question was a general store, where there was no natural lighting in the stockroom. Informal action was taken to remedy the defect.

Washing Facilities (Section 10)

In only one instance has it been necessary to request the provision of washing facilities, the comments given under the heading Sanitary Conveniences apply in this case.

Drinking Water (Section 11)

Two premises registered during the year were found to be without a suitable and sufficient supply of drinking water.

In both instances, water will be required for sanitary and washing facilities, the two premises being those mentioned under Section 9 and 10 of this report. Informal action was taken to have the responsible person put this work in hand.

Accommodation for Clothing (Section 12)

All premises have facilities for clothing accommodation.

Seating Facilities (Section 13/14)

No action was necessary under this section of the Act during the year.

Floor, Passages, Stairs (Section 16)

An informal notice was issued and complied with to provide a suitable handrail to a staircase.

Dangerous Machinery (Section 17, 18 and 19)

No action was necessary.

First Aid (Section 24)

In two premises it was found necessary to issue informal notices to comply with the provisions of this Section.

Notification of Accidents (Section 48)

There has been no notification of accidents received during the year.

Information for Employees (Section 50)

Of all the premises initially inspected during the year, in only 3 cases Abstracts of the Act were found to have been provided. Informal notices were issued to 8 employers to comply with this provision of the Act.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Complaints received during 1966 from the public amounted to 64, this figure being a decrease over the previous year. Some of the complaints, after investigation were found to be public nuisances, all were dealt with satisfactorily and without recourse to Statutory Action.

With the completion of new sewerage systems in various parishes, the progress in the abolition of pail closets and other forms of substandard sanitation showed steady progress. During the year, 15 pail closets were abolished, and 9 Closet Conversion Grants under Section 47, of the Public Health Act 1936 were approved. The sum of £353 was paid to various property owners for this type of work.

RODENT CONTROL

The total number of requests for assistance in dealing with rat and mice infestation, though still low for a predominately agricultural area, shows an increase over the previous year. 73 requests were received (an increase of 22) and all were dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

Periodical inspections were made to the Council's own sewage works, pumping stations, etc. for evidence of rat infestation and treatment given as and when necessary.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of: Inspections (3)	Number of: Written Notices (4)	Number of: Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	-	12	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	21	-	-	-
iii) Other Premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises.)	-	-	-	-
	21	12	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Referred by H.M. Inspector (5)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	-	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORKERS

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(e)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Wearing apparel) Making etc.	10	-	-	-	-	-
Cleaning and Washing	-	-	-	-	-	-